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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." As a white person, I wouldn't say that I have experienced many injustices. However, as a girl, I have seen the treatment of women as a threat to my sense of justice. This year in the presidential election some opinions were brought up on issues that affected only woman, and those decisions were being made by men. My whole life I have grown up with people telling me that I am a free woman. Lucky, privileged, fortunate. How can people call me privileged when they know that in some countries animals have a greater value than women? This year during the presidential campaign, one of the candidates threatened to take away a woman's right to control her body. I had never really thought that in my own country, my rights would be threatened.

I now realize what it must have been like for African Americans during the Civil Rights Movement, to have people making decisions about their lives for them. The African Americans were being told that they couldn't go somewhere or couldn't do something because of what color their skin was. It sounds stupid to us to say, "You can't go there because you are black." But it's the same things as saying "You can't go to school because you are a girl." We take away their education rights and their freedom. We treat people unjustly and discriminate against them for parts of them that they can't control.

Women in developing countries experience injustices such as young marriages and no education. How can I call myself a free woman when others aren't? Thirty one percent of the population in the United States is white males. The other sixty nine percent of the population are women and multiethnic men.

The majority of people in powerful decision-making positions are white men.

Therefore it doesn't make sense to me that the minority gets the most influence about decisions that will affect the majority. This is an injustice because then the minority has the power to make decisions that will benefit them, but not the majority.

I go to an all girls' school. I live in a house where the majority of my family is women. My whole life I have grown up around free and powerful advocates for women's rights. However, as a teenager I have started noticing the injustices that women in other countries face and the ones that will affect me. I can't say that I have experienced pain and injustices like the people of the civil rights era, but I have begun to realize that other people's problems can become something that will affect me. In these past few years there have been many occurrences where women have started speaking out against prejudices and injustices, but it seems that they are only met with punishments.

This year on October 11, my school participated in The Day of the Girl. The event was to recognize girls, shatter stereotypes, end injustices, and demand equality. The event was dedicated to Malala Yousafzai, a fifteen-year-old from Pakistan. She was shot by the Taliban because she had been advocating for women's and girl's rights in a place where they aren't common. This is one example of an injustice to women anywhere because it is hurting a girl who, like Dr. King, was having her rights violated and, protested by speaking out.

Another example of a woman whose rights were taken away from them is

Aung San Suu Kyi. She was put under house arrest for fifteen years because she had been speaking out against the Burmese government. As a teenager in America, I want to be able to speak out for what I think is right without having to worry about the consequences.

If girls in other countries can have their rights taken away from them in a flash, does that mean that mine can? Are women so powerless that we can't even make a stand for our rights without getting hurt? In his "Letters From Birmingham Jail" Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." So yes, my rights can be taken away, but that is all the more reason to make a stand. Dr. King was considered an "outside agitator" in Birmingham because he wasn't from there; therefore it wasn't thought to be his business, but it was. If it was happening in Alabama it could happen in Atlanta. If it happens in Pakistan, it can happen anywhere in the world, even in America.

Dr. King's legacy has shown us that waiting until the problem comes to our homes isn't the solution. We have to go to the problem. On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King performed his "I Have A Dream" speech. His dream was equality of colors. My dream is equality of sexes. The truth is that women still earn sixty cents to every man's dollar and it adds up. Women are still put in danger of being less than men.

I am a white, brown haired, privileged girl. I wake up every day, eat three meals, go to school, come home, and go to sleep in my own bed. Not every girl can say that. My life is the lifestyle that many girls dream of having: no fears, no worries that I might go home and find my parents gone, just that I might fail

my math test. Dr. King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice anywhere."

It means that even, if I am living a luxurious life, other girls struggle through poverty and try just to have their voice heard. It's easier to think that if I don't pay attention to other's pain, it will go away. However, injustices to girls even on the other side of the world is a threat to my safety and rights here in my home. We cannot ignore when others suffer, no matter where they live.

Bibliography

King, Martin Luther, and James Melvin Washington. *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986.